Conference on Disarmament

25 February 2014

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Note verbale dated 21 February 2014 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Nayarit, Mexico on 13 and 14 February 2014

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, in its capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, presents its compliments to Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, and has the honour to submit the Non-Aligned Movement statement on the occasion of the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Nayarit, Mexico on 13-14 February 2014 and request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference.

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Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries welcomes the continuing consideration of the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons at the Conference convened by Mexico on 13-14 February 2014 and in this context, wishes to state the following:

1. The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons have been underscored in the Final Document of the First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament, whereby it was emphasized that "mankind today is confronted with an unprecedented threat of self-extinction arising from the massive and competitive accumulation of the most destructive weapons ever produced." Existing arsenals of nuclear weapons alone are more than sufficient to destroy all life on earth.

2. The Movement expresses its deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate, and massive death and destruction caused by any nuclear weapon detonation and its long term catastrophic consequences on human health, environment, and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations.

3. The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its profound concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

4. While recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, inter alia that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law, the Movement reiterates its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirms the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.

5. The Movement therefore reaffirms the necessity to attain the goal of complete nuclear disarmament, leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons as the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

6. The Movement takes this opportunity to reaffirm that nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority of the international community. Therefore, the Movement calls for the urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament.

7. In this regard, the Movement underlines the implementation of the UN General Assembly A/RES/68/32 on the "Follow-up to the 2013 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", to:

(a) urgently commence negotiations, in the Conference of Disarmament, for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction;

(b) commemorate 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons devoted to furthering this objective, including thro gh enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

(c) convene a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament by 2018.